THE CAFÉ TERRACE AND ITS GODDESSES

#141 Grandma's Flavors

I'M SO HAPPY TO BE ABLE TO GO SOMEWHERE WITH YOU THIS EARLY ON IN THE DAY, HAYATO-KUN!

THIS ISN'T FOR FUN, THOUGH.

ONCE WE'VE DONE EVERYTHING WE NEED TO DO, WE'RE GOING STRAIGHT HOME.

WHAAAT? WE'VE COME ALL THIS WAY, LET'S GO ON A DATE!

DON'T TALK NONSENSE. WE HAVE THE CAFÉ TO THINK ABOUT, TOO.

BESIDES, IS IT TRUE WHAT YOU TOLD ME?

YES. MY GRANDMOTHER SAID THAT WHEN SHE WORKED AT THE CAFÉ...

...SHE AND YOUR GRANDMA OFTEN COOKED TOGETHER.

...IS THAT SO?

IF MY INTUITION IS CORRECT, THEN IT'S LIKELY THAT...

#141 Grandma's Flavors

THE CAFÉ TERRACE AND ITS GODDESSES

NOW THAT I'M AN OLD GRANDMA, I DON'T EVEN LOOK LIKE THAT YOUNG GIRL ANYMORE.

MY, HOW YOUNG I WAS.

HEY, MOTHER.

MASAHIRO-SAN JUST KEPT SAYING "I DON'T KNOW ABOUT ANY OF THIS STUFF".

OH... AND HERE'S A PHOTO OF US ALL WHEN WE WENT TO A RESTAURANT IN GINZA.

I GOT ALL CARRIED AWAY!

OH DEAR! I'M SORRY, SILLY ME.

HAYATO-KUN CAME HERE TO ASK YOU ABOUT SOMETHING.

LET'S HEAR HIM OUT FIRST, SHALL WE?

RIGHT... YES, WELL...

SO, WHAT WAS IT THAT YOU WANTED TO ASK ME ABOUT?

I'D LIKE TO ASK YOU ABOUT MY GRAND-MOTHER...

...BACK WHEN SHE WORKED AT THE OLD FAMILIA, AND THEN IN SPAIN...

OH!!

I... THINK I'VE FIGURED IT OUT...

I THINK I'VE GOT IT!

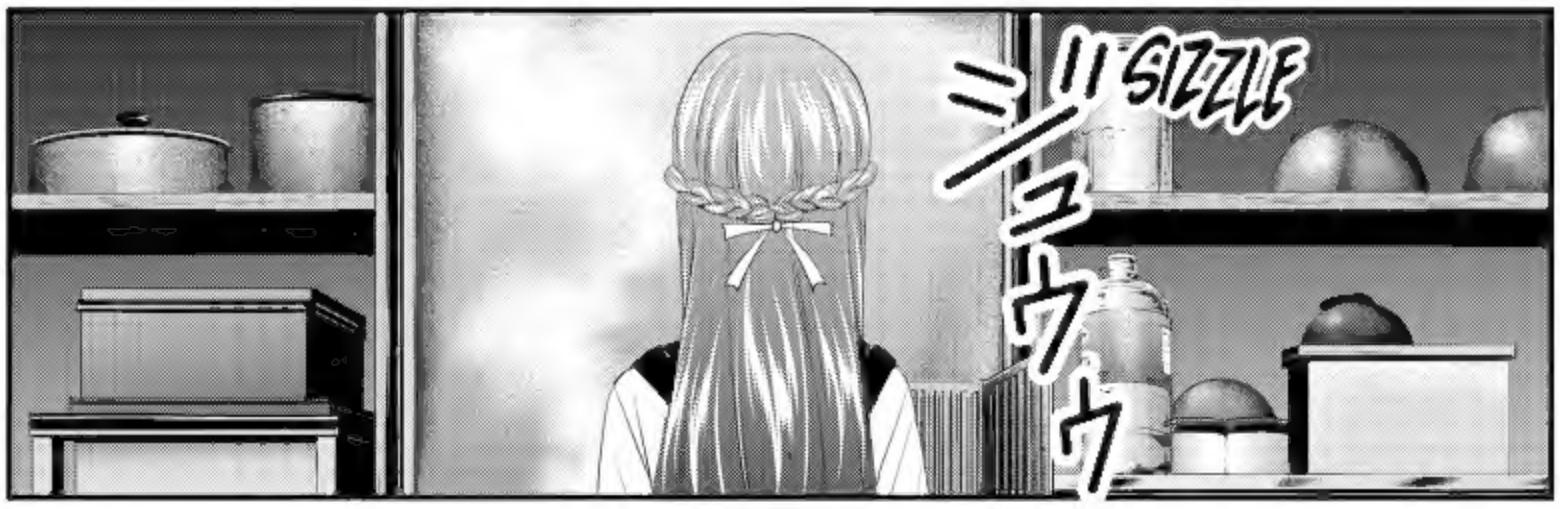
GOT WHAT?

I'VE RIDDLED THE SOLU-TION!!

WHAT IS WRONG WITH YOU?

WH...WHAT? WHY'D YOU SHOUT OUT JUST NOW?

...


SIZZLE

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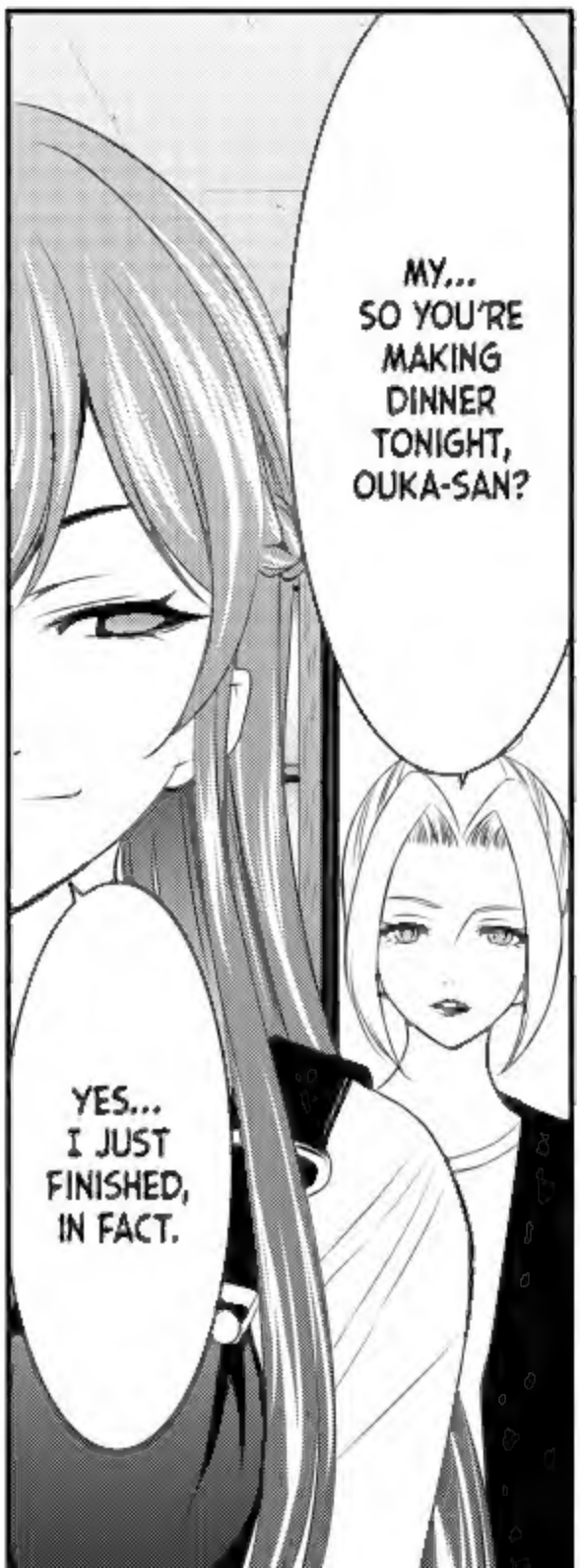
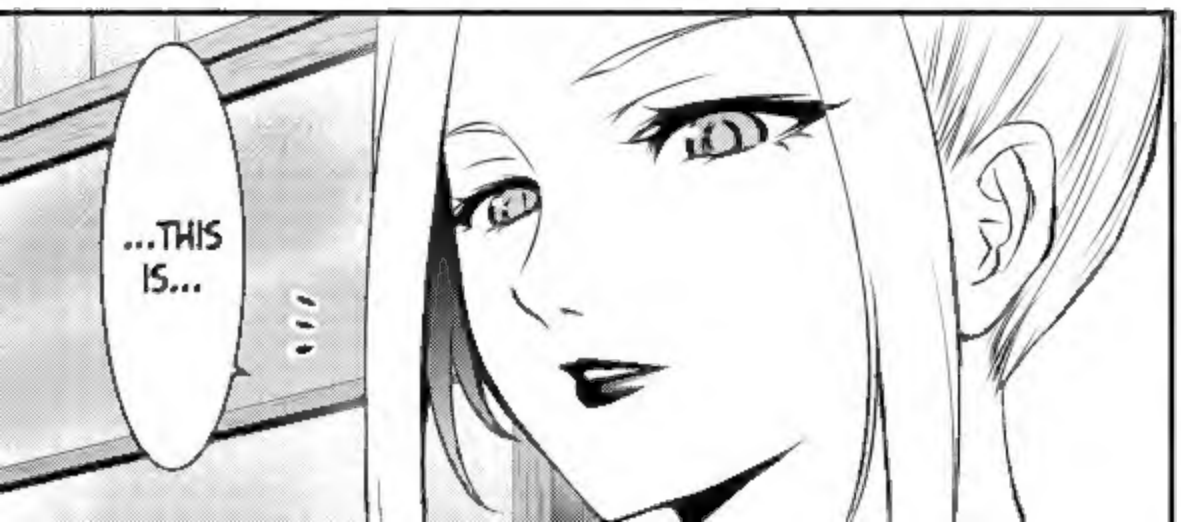

MY... SO YOU'RE MAKING DINNER TONIGHT, OUKA-SAN?
YES... I JUST FINISHED, IN FACT.


...THIS IS...

THE DISH THAT GRANDMA SERVED HER MAJESTY.

THIS IS IT, ISN'T IT?

UH...

THIS PILAF?

YES, THIS PILAF.

THIS IS THE DISH THAT GRANDMA ENTRUSTED TO ME AND ME ALONE TO MAKE FOR HAYATO-KUN.

GRANDMA'S ONE AND ONLY PILAF.

THIS DISH MUST HAVE HELD SPECIAL SIGNIFICANCE FOR GRANDMA, DON'T YOU THINK?

I AM SO SORRY TO HAVE TO TELL YOU THIS...

...

...I SEE.

...BUT THE DISH I SAW LOOKED LIKE A RISOTTO.

IF IT WAS A PILAF, I WOULD HAVE RECOGNIZED IT AS SUCH.

...BETWEEN US.

PLEASE KEEP THIS...

COME AND SIT WITH THE OTHERS.

I HAVE SOMETHING TO TELL YOU ALL.

STOP EAVES-DROP-PING!!

WHAT DO YOU MEAN "I SEE," *DETECTIVE?*

YOU'VE DISCOVERED WHAT GRANDMA'S MYSTERY DISH WAS?!

I'M NOT SURE YET.

SO I WANTED SARA-SAN TO TRY IT, FIRST.

IS IT READY, SHIRAGIKU?

AH... UM...

...

UNDER-STOOD.

WELL, I'VE MADE IT THE WAY YOU SUGGESTED.

...YES.

THIS IS IT... IT LOOKED SOMETHING LIKE THIS!

HUH...? BUT THIS SMELL...

YEAH ...

THIS IS...

...!

IT'S MISO.

HUH...? WHY?!

YEAH!! THIS IS OJIYA*!!

*A rice gruel or savory porridge, usually seasoned with miso or soy sauce.

I HAD A THOUGHT YESTERDAY EVENING, WHEN I HAD SHIRAGIKU MAKE ME OCHAZUKE.

WHAT IF HER MAJESTY WAS LIKE ME...

AND AFTER FOUR DAYS OF EATING FANCY RESTAURANT-STYLE FOOD, HER STOMACH COULDN'T TAKE ANY MORE?

IF SHE WANTED SOMETHING EASY ON HER STOMACH, OTHER COUNTRIES HAVE DISHES LIKE THAT TOO, RIGHT?!

WHY WOULD SHE MAKE OJIYA?!

B...BUT EVEN IF THAT'S TRUE!

...GRANDMA MADE SOMETHING THAT WOULD BE EASIER ON HER STOMACH.

AND SO ON THE LAST DAY...

SO OF COURSE, SOMETHING LIKE THAT WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN ENOUGH TO SATISFY HER.

BUT WHAT HER MAJESTY ASKED FOR WAS "THE BEST DISH I'LL EVER HAVE TASTED".

ARROZ CALDOSO, WAS IT?

OF COURSE, THERE ARE THINGS LIKE RISOTTO AND...

FROM WHAT YOU TOLD US, SARA-SAN, HER MAJESTY HAD NEVER EATEN JAPANESE FOOD BEFORE.

THINGS LIKE MISO, OR SOY SAUCE... OR MAYBE SHE MADE SOMETHING LIKE OJIYA, USING DASHI.

SO I THOUGHT THAT IN THAT CASE, PERHAPS GRANDMA USED JAPANESE SEASONINGS THAT WEREN'T THAT WELL-KNOWN ELSEWHERE AT THE TIME...

...MAY I ASK WHY YOU SELECTED THESE SEASONINGS?

...SO...

I REMEMBERED SOMETHING THAT GRANDMA USED TO SAY TO ME A LOT.

...

SHUT UP! I LIKE YOUR USUAL PILAF!!

I TOLD YOU THAT I CAN MAKE YOU ANYTHING YOU WANT... YOU REALLY ARE JUST LIKE YOUR DEAD GRANDFATHER.

AND IF THAT WAS TRUE, THEN IT MUST HAVE BEEN SOMETHING FROM BACK IN THE OLD FAMILIA DAYS...

...I FIGURED THAT MY GRANDFATHER MUST HAVE HAD A "USUAL" ORDER, TOO.

SO IF I HAD A "USUAL" ORDER, IN MY CASE, THE PILAF...

IT TURNED OUT TO BE A MORE...

...SLAPDASH MEAL THAN I EXPECTED, THOUGH.

YEAH...

YOU THOUGHT THAT MUST HAVE BEEN WHAT THEY SERVED HER MAJESTY.

THAT'S IT! SO THAT'S WHY YOU WANTED TO GO AND ASK MY GRANDMOTHER!

WHEN WE FINALLY GOT BACK HOME, HE TOLD SACHIKO-SAN "GET ME MY USUAL LEFTOVER MEAL FOR ONE."

WE ALL WENT TO A RESTAURANT IN GINZA, AND MASAHIRO-SAN JUST KEPT SAYING "I DON'T KNOW ABOUT ANY OF THIS STUFF"...

WELL, SINCE IT'S COOKED TOGETHER, IT'S OJIYA.

WHAT? YOU MEAN GRANDMA SERVED HER MAJESTY LEFTOVERS?

...

MEOW.

IT'S LIKE SOMETHING A CAT WOULD EAT!

WAIT... THAT'S...

...WHEN SHE WAS A CHEF IN SPAIN.

THEN, I WANTED TO KNOW IF SHE HAD ACCESS TO MISO...

KASUKABE-SAN WOULD OFTEN MAKE US MISO SOUP USING HER OWN HOMEMADE MISO PASTE. IT WAS TRULY DELICIOUS.

YES, WE DID. THERE WERE A NUMBER OF JAPANESE STAFF MEMBERS THERE, AFTER ALL.

SO THAT'S HOW YOU CAME UP WITH THIS DISH.

...I SEE.

WELL, ABOVE ALL, THAT OLD WOMAN HAD A WARPED PERSONALITY.

SO I FIGURED SHE'D DO SOMETHING LIKE THAT.

...

BUT WAIT, THE MISO WE USE HERE NOWADAYS IS FROM THE SUPER-MARKET.

WOULDN'T IT TASTE DIFFERENT?

COME TO THINK OF IT, THE MISO SOUP DOES TASTE DIFFERENT NOW TO HOW IT DID WHEN GRANDMA WAS ALIVE.

I'M SORRY. WHAT WITH COLLEGE AND EVERYTHING, I'M TOO BUSY TO MAKE HOMEMADE MISO...

SO I DID USE A LITTLE OF IT TO MAKE THIS DISH.

BUT WE STILL HAD SOME OF THE MISO GRANDMA MADE IN THE FREEZER.

...FOR USING SUCH A PRECIOUS THING TO HELP US.

THANK YOU...

...WELL, THEN...

FSH

...THAT'S TRUE.

IF YOU WANT TO THANK HER, PLEASE DO SO ONCE YOU'VE TRIED IT.

WE DON'T KNOW WHETHER IT'S RIGHT OR NOT YET.

...

...

AH...

...

I HAVEN'T EVEN GIVEN IT A NAME.

IT'S NOT COMPLETE YET.

THIS ISN'T IT.

HAYA-CCHI!!

YOU'RE KIDDING, RIGHT? YOU'RE CREEPING ME OUT...

...

HOW LAME!!

プープーッ PFFT

THE END

WHAT?

The Café Terrace and Its Goddesses

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